

COUNTY OF LINCOLN

New Mexico Special Meeting Board of County Commissioners

Todd Proctor, Chair
Jon Crunk, Vice Chair

Samantha Serna, Member
Mark Fischer, Member
Pierre Pfeffer, Member

Minutes Tuesday May 2, 2023

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lincoln County Commission held at 8:30 AM on May 2, 2023, in the County Commission Chambers, Lincoln County Courthouse, in Carrizozo, New Mexico. The meeting was also accessible via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Chair Proctor called the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 8:30 AM.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call.

Present: Commissioner Fischer, Commissioner Pfeffer, Commissioner Crunk, Chair Proctor.

Absent: Commissioner Serna.

Others present included Ira Pearson, County Manager; Alan Morel, County Attorney; and Shannan Hemphill, County Clerk

3. Invocation

The Invocation was presented by Chair Proctor.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Pledge – USA Flag
- b. Salute – NM Flag

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Acceptance of the Agenda and authorized the Chair to move items as necessary,

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Fischer, **Seconded by** Commissioner Pfeffer.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Commissioner Fischer, Commissioner Pfeffer, Commissioner Crunk, Chair Proctor.

6. Approval to Issue RFP- Solid Waste Services

Manager Pearson requested this item be moved to the next Commission Meeting.

7. Award of Electrical On-Call Services for the County of Lincoln RFP #22-23-5

Manager Pearson requested this item be moved to the next Commission Meeting.

8. Preliminary Budget Meeting, Fiscal Year 2023-2024

- a. County Manager's Overview

Manager Pearson gave a brief overview of the Preliminary Budget and schedule. Manager Pearson reminded there was a 3/12 general fund requirement and a 1/12 road requirement.

- b. External Agency Requests
 1. Boys & Girls Club of Lincoln and Chaves Counties- 8:40 AM

Tim Coughlin, Boys & Girls Club of Lincoln and Chaves Counties, stated 99% of the Youth served were from Lincoln County. Mr. Coughlin stated funding from Lincoln County would only be spent in Lincoln County. Requested \$15,000

2. **Capitan Library- 8:45 AM**

Paulette Arnone, Director of the Capitan Library, explained the Capitan Public library also pays for the "Not too Shabby Shop" and has Wi-Fi available for the public. Ms. Arnone stated they have a Friday Kids Library Club and Summer Reading Program. Requested \$6,000

3. **EcoServants 8:55 AM**

Manager Pearson gave a brief explanation of some of the services provided by EcoServants and how much they had helped the County. Laura Doth, South Central Mountain RC&D, gave an additional overview of some services provided by EcoServants. Requested \$25,000

4. **Lincoln County Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCCWMA) - 9:00 AM**

Judy Bott, Upper Hondo SWCD, spoke on the various weed control programs in the County. Requested \$50,000

5. **Lincoln County Humane Society- 9:05 AM**

Abel Guzman, Humane Society of Lincoln County, explained they had taken in 1,216 animals in 2021-2022. Mr. Guzman stated they were expecting a 64% increase in animals brought in from the County. Mr. Guzman explained they had provided microchip scanners to the Sheriff's Department to assist in locating owners before animals were brought into the Humane Society. Requested \$37,000

6. **Lincoln County Juvenile Justice Board (LCJJB) - 9:10 AM**

Phil Jones, Director of LCJJB, stated they were under the Region IX umbrella and their goal was to help keep kids out of the justice system. Sergio Castro, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, stated they were working on treating the underlying reasons for the juvenile delinquency. Mr. Castro explained since they started the prevention and outreach programs, they had been able to keep the numbers and detention of the students down from where they were in 2002. Mr. Castro stated the recidivism was less than 5%. Requested \$12,500

7. **Lincoln County Fair Board Association- 9:15 AM**

Renee Montes, LCFA Secretary/Treasurer, explained they were a non-profit organization which started in 1956 and promotes the youth in the County with agricultural outreach. Requested \$37,500

8. **NM Rural Bookmobile- 9:20 AM**

No presentation available. Requested \$1,260

9. **NMSU Cooperative Extension Services- 9:25 AM**

Melanie Gutierrez, Lincoln County Extension Service, explained there were some State Appropriations which had come through to help cover part of the FCS position, so they were able to request a smaller amount than last year. Tom Dean, NMSU, stated the State Appropriation funds were back on a permanent budget basis for Lincoln County. Requested \$85,723

10. **Region IX- 9:30 AM**

Bryan Dooley, Executive Director of Region IX, explained they were looking for support in building their Early Childhood Center. Mr. Dooley detailed the plans for a 17,000-sf facility on 2 acres in Ruidoso, consisting of 14 classrooms with 50+ staff, serving 277 children pre-birth through age 5. Mr. Dooley stated it was an \$8,000,000 facility and they could build it, however they would not have enough funds left over to maintain their current level of services. Mr. Dooley stated Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury's Office had a \$4,000,000 Congressional Legislative Appropriation high on her list for them. Mr. Dooley detailed other funding opportunities they were working on as well. Requested \$1,000,000

11. **Ruidoso Public Library - 9:35 AM**

Diane Denise Staab, Library Manager, provided a detailed description of the services provided in the Ruidoso Public Library. Requested \$20,000

12. Region IX School Based Health Center- **9:40 AM**

Ashlee McEwen, Director of Region IX School Based Health Center, presented on many of the services provided throughout the schools and informed the majority of services were behavioral healthcare services. Requested \$10,000

13. Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD)-
9:45 AM

Dora Batista, Director of SNMEDD COG, explained some of the services provided in their area which included Lea, Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln and Otero Counties. Ms. Staab explained they had hired a Grant writer for assistance with disaster recovery efforts after the fires, and it included EDA Grants as well. Requested \$7,000

14. South Central Mountain RC & D- **9:50 AM**

Laura Doth, South Central Mountain RC&D, explained they had been serving Lincoln County since 1967 and detailed some of the services provided within the County. Requested \$40,000

15. USDA Wildlife Services – **9:55 AM**

Robert Cummings, Master Specialist for Roswell District, explained the District included Eddy, Lea, Chaves, Lincoln, DeBaca and Curry Counties. Mr. Cummings spoke on livestock predations as well as feral swine in the area. Mr. Cummings detailed the Taylor Grazing fee in the amount of \$35,607.46 and the per head tax in the amount of \$26,538. Requested \$39,855

16. White Mountain Search & Rescue- **10:00 AM**

Shannah Coleman, White Mountain Search & Rescue, explained Alamogordo no longer had a Search and Rescue Team so they are now the only team in the area. Ms. Coleman detailed their request for funding for their equipment to include communications, repelling, medical and any additional operational outdated equipment which may need to be upgraded. Requested \$5,000

17. Community Foundation of Lincoln County – **10:05 AM**

Leroy Smith, Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Lincoln County, informed the Commissioners the Foundation had been around for about 16-17 years. Mr. Smith explained they provided scholarships for High School seniors throughout the County. Mr. Smith stated the Legacy Fund was an endowment fund which they hoped would reach \$1,000,000 so they would be able to use the interest and not touch the principal. Mr. Smith explained some of their grants help the Humane Society of Lincoln County, the Boys and Girls Club and area libraries just to name a few. Mr. Smith detailed the Shelter Fund which was set up after the Little Bear Fire and used during the most recent fires, however since the funding was over \$500,000, they were now subject to an audit and would incur a \$10,000 audit fee. Requested \$10,000

Chair Proctor recessed the meeting at 10:16 AM and reconvened the Special Commission meeting at 10:24 AM.

c. Medical Related Budget: LCMC and Clinics

Todd Oberheu, Hospital Chief Executive, and Sandy Nunally, Manager of Lincoln County EMS, gave a presentation on the Hospital and stated Presbyterian took over management in 1972. Mr. Oberheu explained they were a critical care hospital which meant they could not have more than 25 beds in the facility. Mr. Oberheu stated they were awarded the top small hospital for the third time in 5 years and the top hospital in the State 3 years ago against all hospitals. Mr. Oberheu gave a presentation on some of the 2023 focus areas within the community. Mr. Oberheu presented 2 proposals for the LCMC Mill Levy options; Option A would be expanding EMS and creating 24-hour EMS Stations in Carrizozo and in Alto and Option B would be keeping things the same. After some discussion Mr. Oberheu clarified his recommendation would be Option A. Mr. Oberheu also stated there was a possibility they could use the Clinic to house the 24 hour EMS services in Carrizozo, as the New Horizons building was no longer available, however they would have to look at it closer.

Manager Pearson questioned the implementation time to a fully functional 24-hour station. Ms. Nunnally stated if it was started in July, she would hope to be fully operational in September.

Mr. Oberheu detailed some of the capital requests they were looking at, including the UV Sterilization which was done at hospital being done on a smaller version in the Carrizozo and Capitan clinics, the HVAC in Carrizozo which would be split between medical and dental, the Carrizozo dental vacuum system needed upgrade or replacement, and they would like to purchase a new full ambulance.

d. Detailed Department Review

Manager Pearson gave a detailed breakdown of the general fund budget for the various departments. Commissioner Pfeffer questioned the possible increase in the budget due to a possible change in salaries for County employees after studies on comparables within the State.

Manager Pearson explained the Manager's Budget in detail. Commissioner Fischer questioned the Professional Services increase. Manager Pearson stated they were expecting an increase in Attorney's Services. Manager Pearson explained the increase in Equipment was to have the ability to upgrade servers and other computer equipment as it gets close to its end-of-life cycle.

Clerk Hemphill explained the Bureau of Elections budget and stated they received reimbursements from the Secretary of State's Office to cover election related expenses and the reimbursement went back to the General Fund.

Manager Pearson stated the Road Department would need to be adjusted regularly in the future as grants and agreements are presented and signed. Commissioner Pfeffer questioned the use of diesel vs red diesel and if that was something the road superintendent could review and get pricing for. Manager Pearson explained the road fuel and gas tax revenue would be earmarked and brought back monthly. Commissioner Fischer questioned the school bus routes and how much they fluctuated. Mr. Honeycutt explained they requested the routes from the schools and are waiting for a response.

Manager Pearson explained 418 and 405 were combined into 405.

Manager Pearson explained the Fire Departments carry the fund balances over from year to year in order to have enough to purchase their larger equipment.

Manager Pearson stated line 414 is the internal requests so they are easy to track, they currently had the 4 Sheriff's Vehicles which were allocated but had not been received.

Manager Pearson explained the 420 line was the legislative appropriations and there were expectations to receive \$50,000 for the detention center and \$800,000 for the Courthouse Complex.

Manager Pearson stated line 424 was for the Fire Services and consisted of the Fire Marshall funds.

Chair Proctor recessed the meeting at 12:00 PM and reconvened the Special Commission meeting at 12:20 PM.

e. Unfunded Optional County Departmental Requests

Joe Kenmore, OES, stated he was looking for funding for a generator, a large office printer as theirs was outdated and needed to be replaced, and a new vehicle.

Sheriff Wood explained they were waiting on the 4 vehicles they previously purchased however they would like 4 more vehicles with outfitting, a camera system for the office, a 2-bay metal building instead of the vacant lot they were currently using for impounded vehicles and equipment, and video redaction software. Sheriff Wood explained they were notified they would be receiving about \$120,000 from the law enforcement protection fund and 70% of it could be used for equipment and 30% was for training. Sheriff Wood stated he would purchase the shotguns out of the LEP funds. Sheriff Wood stated they would like to purchase the crime scene vehicle through the County and then use the LEP funds to up fit it and make it usable.

Jeff Honeycutt, Road Superintendent, explained they needed a new transport truck as they were down to one and it was not big enough to move the larger equipment. Mr. Honeycutt also requested 2 pickup trucks, one for salt spreader/snowplow and the second to replace an existing fleet truck, both would be 1 ton dodge diesels. Mr. Honeycutt explained the possibility of putting a new motor in the salt spreader/snowplow would be \$58,000 instead of \$320,000 for a new one.

Mr. Honeycutt stated his last request was for a mini excavator, which was not something they had in their existing fleet so it would be a new purchase.

Manager Pearson explained the Detention Center would like to purchase a replacement van, they had 4 but are down to 3. Manager Pearson explained the release of prisoner fund, and stated they would like to start it at \$500 instead of \$5,000, which is used to assist prisoners before release to make sure they are able to get on their way to someplace else. Manager Pearson stated the Tularosa Schools had extra portable buildings which the detention center could use, it would cost about \$14,000 to transport it. Manager Pearson explained if they choose not to use the portable building they would need electricity in the warehouse, half of which was used for County assets and half was used for the Detention Center. Manager Pearson stated the Detention Center needed a camera system and security camera storage and server upgrade.

Billie Jo Guevara, Finance Director, requested a vehicle for finance, HR, purchasing and inventory which all fall under the Manager's Office and is needed for attending training.

f. Manager's Recommendations

Manager Pearson recommended waiting for non-emergency funding requests until later. Manager Pearson recommended funding the external requests in the budget and waiting for internal requests until August. Commissioner Fischer recommended no more than a 20% increase in the external budget requests.

The following were the County Commission recommendations:

Boys & Girls Club- \$10,000
Capitan Library- \$5,000
EcoServants- \$16,000
Lincoln County Cooperative Weed Management Area- \$48,000
Lincoln County Humane Society- \$30,000
Lincoln County Juvenile Justice Board- \$12,500
Lincoln County Fair Board Association- \$37,500 to be paid out of Lodgers Tax
NM Rural Bookmobile- \$1,260
NMSU Cooperative Extension Services- \$85,723
Region IX- needs to be researched prior to recommendation
Ruidoso Public Library- \$12,500
Region IX School Based Health Center- \$10,000 with a follow-up from Otero County as they assist in those schools as well
Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District- \$7,000
South Central Mountain RC&D- \$40,000 from Forest Title 3 Fund with some out of 602 Fund
USDA Wildlife Services- \$39,855 out of fund 423
White Mountain Search and Rescue- \$5,000
Community Foundation of Lincoln County- up to \$10,000 for the cost of the audit
Coalition of Counties- \$28,600
NACO dues- \$450

Chair Proctor clarified after approving the external requests the budget came to .79% and the Region IX request could be brought back after research.

Motion: Approve the external budget requests as recommended by the Commissioners, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Crunk, **Seconded by** Commissioner Pfeffer.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Commissioner Fischer, Commissioner Pfeffer, Commissioner Crunk, Chair Proctor.

g. Board of County Commissioner's Preliminary Budget Guidance

Manager Pearson explained some of the vehicles requested could be encumbered in the current year's budget and brought back next month as a budget adjustment.

Commissioner Pfeffer would like to be kept updated on the Pending RFP as that could cause some flux in the budget.

Commissioner Fischer would like some additional explanation at the next meeting so he can have a better understanding of the estimates which were presented in the personnel portion of the budget and how it affects the cushion.

9. Next meetings:

- a. Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting & Public Hearing (Adoption of Preliminary Budget FY 23/24) and Canvass of Capitan Schools Special Election Results

- b. Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Canvass Village of Capitan Special Election Results
- c. Tuesday, June 20, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting

10. Adjourn

Motion: Adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Commissioner Crunk, **Seconded by** Commissioner Fischer.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

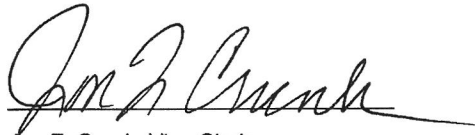
Yes: Commissioner Fischer, Commissioner Pfeffer, Commissioner Crunk, Chair Proctor.

There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners, Chair Proctor adjourned the meeting at 1:58 PM.

County of Lincoln
Board of Commissioners



Todd F. Proctor, Chair



Jon F. Crunk, Vice Chair



Samantha J. Serna, Member

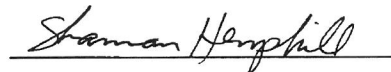


Mark G. Fischer, Member



Pierre S. Pfeffer, Member

ATTEST:



Shannan Hemphill, County Clerk

June 20, 2023

Date Approved

